

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, March 10, 2010 – 6:00pm

Kathleen Clay Edwards Library at Price Park – 1420 Price Park Road

PRESENT MEMBERS: Rose Marie Ponton (Chair), Carl Brower, Jr (Vice-Chair), Marc Bush (arrived 6:25pm), Ken Free, Lori Galbreath, Robert Clay Hassard, Steve Moore, Wesley Vaughn

ABSENT MEMBERS: Zach Crutchfield

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Branson, Kathy Cates, Jenny Caviness, Kathy Chatfield, John Hughes, Greg Jackson, Lynne Leonard, Dan Maxson, Nasha McCray, Tracy Pegram, Marcie Richardson, Mike Simpson, Laurie Thore, Bernadette White, Chris Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: Roger Bardsley, Guilford County Parks and Open Space

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held in the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library at Price Park. Rose Marie Ponton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 10, 2010 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognitions

Ponton introduced new Commission Member, Robert Clay Hassard.

Ponton welcomed Roger Bardsley, Guilford County Parks and Open Space.

The following were recognized for receiving the Presidential Service Award for serving over 300 volunteer hours with the Greensboro Youth Council: Jim Lin, HiuMiu (Hilary) Chan, Cherri Miller, Marques Dotts, Joscelyne Mason, Devin Jones, Richard Sosa, Adrienne White, Susan Thomas, and Kris Rawls.

Price Park Presentation

Chris Wilson, Parks, Gardens, and Program Support Manager, introduced and turned this presentation over to Steve Branson, Regional Parks Superintendent. Branson presented the Commission with information regarding Price Park and informed Members that the Kathleen Clay Edwards Library sits in Price Park and is the most utilized library in Greensboro. The Price Park property was previously owned by Jefferson Pilot and at that time consisted of 414 acres. In the 1890's this parcel of land was the largest undeveloped land in Greensboro. In 1999 the Piedmont Land Conservancy (PLC) became involved to try to preserve some of the land. PLC was able to obtain 93 acres of the original 414. Donations to honor Julian Price and Kathleen Clay Edwards along with funding from the City of Greensboro is the reason for Price Park today. The library currently has an extensive collection of nature, gardening, and environmental resources for patrons of all ages. Since funding is not available to staff the park, the library provides patrons with environmental education. The goal for Price Park is to become an environmental education hub. Branson then presented the Commission with a powerpoint demonstrating the park layout, its amenities, and events held at the park.

Branson invited Members to attend the 229th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse March 13-14.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmer's Market Recommendations

Ponton stated that this item was postponed from the previous Commission meeting. Ponton then turned the presentation over to Greg Jackson, Director.

Jackson reported that the Farmer's Market Recommendations were presented during the January 13, 2010 Parks and

Recreation Commission meeting. These recommendations were posted on the Parks and Recreation website to allow public viewing and comment. Jackson reported that there were 12 responses, 10 of which were regarding the recommendations. Eight of the 10 comments favored some parts of the recommendations. One comment favored the entire recommendation and one comment did not favor any portion of the recommendation.

Ponton asked if anyone would like to make a one minute comment.

David Wright, 4706 Waldorf Drive, spoke to the Farmer's Market mission statement and requested clarification of home grown verses locally produced items. Wright stated that his interpretation of the mission statement would exclude those who operate commercial ventures which would be detrimental to the Farmer's Market.

Mike Faucette, Brown Summit, stated that he is relatively in favor of all the rules. Faucette is concerned that vendors are saying they're farmers and getting tables on the account of being farmers. During the summer they may bring 5% produce and craft goods the remainder of the time. Faucette suggested that if craftsman are going to get a table as a farmer they should have at least 75% farm goods and 25% craft goods. Faucette recommended re-considering the "huckster" rule that was removed from the rules. This rule was designed for farmers in order to have self-income during the winter months allowing them to bring produce from other places. Faucette recommended that the Market Manager be a vendor or at least know the vendors.

Pat Koegl, 594 Fox Briar Drive, informed the Commission that there was a petition circulated that was signed by nearly 50 vendors and many customers in support of the current Market Manager remaining the Market Manager unlike the proposed recommendations.

Ponton requested a show of hands in the audience of who is in support of the recommendations. No one raised their hand in support of the entire recommendations, 6 raised their hand in support of a portion of the recommendations, and no one raised their hand totally against the recommendations.

Carl Brower, Jr., Vice-Chair, stated that as a member of the work group that worked with the recommendations there were a number of concerns and complaints about how the Farmer's Market is being managed. One of the major items continuously heard was that management was not enforcing the rules. In one particular meeting the manager stated that he had broken one of the rules trying to help another farmer get space to sell even though that space was off limits. This shows why there were complaints and substantiated why there are concerns. The document presented 2 months ago addresses all the concerns brought forward. There will be a new manager coming in who will need time to become acquainted with the Market and will handle any other concerns that come up. We are going to support you and listen to vendors and customers with the process set up to do so. Brower encouraged everyone to give this process a chance to work. There are avenues to make changes at a later time.

Steve Moore, Member, stated that he served on the work group as well where feedback was given that there was a conflict of interest with the manager being a vendor. This allows certain vendors the right to have advantages that other vendors may not have. Moore requested to see the petition.

Wesley Vaughn, Member, asked for clarity about the Market Manager having oversight to decide who received a variance verses who did not and is it correct that this will now be at the discretion of the advisory board. If someone disagrees with a variance what recourse would one have.

Kathy Cates, City Beautiful Director, replied stating that is correct. Cates clarified that there is a Market Manager and a Market Coordinator.

Lynne Leonard, Market Coordinator, stated that the variance process is for products or items that one does not personally produce or grow and there are limited situations where this would be allowed.

Jackson stated that a variance is not permanent with restrictions on the length of time a variance is allowed.

Vaughn inquired if it is possible that 2 people could apply for a variance and based on a relationship with Market Management one person could receive it and the other could not.

Cates stated that the purpose of a variance in such cases where perhaps there was a late freeze and were not able to sell an item the Market would allow vendors to bring in other sources. This is a situation where one vendor would not be denied over another.

Vaughn inquired if a variance could be granted during an off season to bring in items in order to make a booth full or can one only provide items that one is set to sell.

Leonard replied stating that there are many factors when one has applied for a variance. The product must be within the guidelines and then would most likely be approved.

Brower stated that the variance is there to provide farmers the opportunity to sell products that they may not be able to grow locally due to weather, natural disaster, etc. If someone elsewhere had the same product that doesn't usually come to the Market, the local person can get that product from someone elsewhere because of the hardship in the local area.

Vaughn inquired how that differs from the "huckster" rule.

Brower replied stating that the "huckster" rule has to do with things that are out of season that one would try to provide.

Vaughn stated that the winter months seem like a good time to follow the "huckster" rule and set a cut off date to provide more than what is grown locally at the Market.

Ponton stated that there is another local Farmer's Market where one can sell more of a variety and is why this Farmer's Market is a true Farmer's Market. We are trying to preserve this Market as it has always operated.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Carl Brower, Jr. and seconded to approve the Farmer's Market recommendations as presented. Ayes: Ponton, Brower, Free, Galbreath, Moore, Hassard, Bush. Noes: Vaughn

Capital Improvement Program

Ednasha McCray, Planning and Project Development Manager, reported that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) subcommittee that was appointed by the Commission met last month to review the unfunded CIP project list (attached) for fiscal years 2010-2016. Pool repairs, upgrades, and replacement are the top priorities followed by facility investment and future park and facility development, land acquisition then park reinvestment. Each of these categories consist of subcategories that reflect the priority of individual projects. The total amount for the CIP project list is an estimate of 45.9 million dollars. These projects would be funded from future bonds.

McCray stated that the projects are identified from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and through citizen input. This program set the course for projects staff needs to concentrate on.

Brower inquired about the criteria used for ranking the pools.

McCray replied stating that the level of work and type of upgrade was the ranking criteria. Many items were carried forward from the previous CIP.

Jackson stated that this list is reviewed on an annual basis.



FY10-16 CIP
subcommittee Prior..

Action Taken

A motion was made by Lori Galbreath and seconded to approve the 2010-2016 Capital Improvement Program recommendation. A vote in favor was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

Bond Project Priorities

McCray distributed the bond project list and reported that the 2000, 2006, and 2008 bond project list was reviewed and prioritized during the before mentioned CIP project meeting. Nasha informed Members that the bonds for Keeley Park, Hilltop Park/Recreation Center, Ole Asheboro and Brightwood Neighborhood Parks will be sold this year within the next 6-7 months. The status of the 2006 and 2008 bonds is unsure; however if funds do become available the list reflects those recommended priorities projects.

Jackson added that the projects reflect those that have been approved via bond referendum. Staff has been asked to go through and cash flow each project that we're trying to complete in the next few years and how much money will be needed for planning and construction.

Brower inquired about the trail system expansion in the 2006 bond project section which is ranked 16th in priority that has been moved to a higher priority over others.

Jackson replied stating that when doing the upcoming cash flow report the trail system project would perhaps be spread out over multiple years.

Ponton added that a portion of funding (2.3 million dollars) will be provided from the Greensboro Transportation Department.

Brower stated that when adding some of the individual projects less money would be spent than on the trail system which would allow more from tax dollars to do multiple projects that would provide more wide variety to citizens than just one project.

Nasha replied stating that although the trail system is a 2006 bond project.

Wilson stated that a portion of the trail projects will still have to be designed and engineered over the course of a years time and could not be completed all at once.

Jackson stated that the projects were broken down by the year and were broken down on the bond referendum which is why they are shuffled the way they are.

Brower stated that there was a bond in 2000 for Barber Park. Part of this bond money was converted to another project. At that time we were told by City Council that they would try to find funds to replace it which totaled 6 million dollars. Brower expressed concern that there are projects that are moving forward but yet have not completed what was promised in 2000 for Barber Park.

Bush inquired if it is known percentage wise where Parks and Recreation stands with bond funding determined by City Council.

Jackson replied stating that there will be a 6 grade criteria used for the cash flow projection to include promises that have not been answered for consideration when prioritizing projects between departments.



FY10-16 CIP
Subcommittee Prior..

Action Taken

A motion was made by Marc Bush and seconded to approve the bond project list as presented. A vote in favor was unanimous.

STAFF REPORTS

Bur-Mil Park

Wilson introduced and turned this presentation over to Tracy Pegram, Bur-Mil Park Manager. Pegram presented the Commission with a powerpoint presentation informing Members of programs, amenities, and events held at Bur-Mil Park.

Pegram stated that Bur-Mil Park is owned by Guilford County and managed by the City of Greensboro. Greensboro is reimbursed by Guilford County for expenses incurred at Bur-Mil Park. Guilford County also pays the City a 10% administrative fee. Guilford County purchased Bur-Mil Park from Burlington Industries in 1989. Burlington used this facility as their employee recreation area.

Ponton stated that this facility offers a wonderful opportunity for citizens and represents a fine partnership between the City and County and has contributed in making Greensboro a rich place for Parks and Recreation.

Gillespie Golf

Wilson stated that the City of Greensboro is very fortunate to have the generosity from the Bryan Foundation and has been the case on many occasions. The Bryan Foundation has approached Parks and Recreation in support of a program called First Tee. First Tee is a program in which young people receive the opportunity and exposure to golf. Currently this program is hosted at Gillespie Golf Course. First Tee is more than golf as it teaches values and principles. Rules of the game are learned as well as life lessons. There is a real concentration and promotion of education and staying in school. Last year was the first year Parks and Recreation participated in this program with 17 participants. To date 40 have registered this year. The Bryan Foundation is very encouraged by the program and as a result would like to enhance the facility in which they practice. This would be Phase I of improvements due to the program continuing to grow and would invite the opportunity for future development.

Wilson presented the design concept for Gillespie Golf Course (attached). Wilson stated that the garage bay would be converted into a classroom. This concept would improve general play and practice. This design will also be presented to City Council. Wilson requested a recommendation from the Commission to move forward for Council approval.

Ken Free, Member, inquired when work would begin on the restroom facility located at Gillespie Golf Course. Free stated that First Tee is an excellent program.

Wilson replied stating that this item is part of the bond considerations and if City Council reviews that particular portion of the bond and decides to move forward staff would move quickly to proceed.

Brower inquired if the project addresses any drainage issues in that area and what is the timeline for completion.

Wilson replied stating that this could allow the opportunity to address any drainage issues. To enlarge the area there are trees that would have to be removed. During that time it would allow staff the opportunity to grade the area and address drainage issues at the hitting and putting areas. Wilson stated that the bulk of construction could be complete in 30 days, weather permitting. It is hoped that City Council will approve this project during their March 16 meeting.

Moore stated that this concept would improve the facility as it is difficult to get to the facility.

Wilson added that this project costs approximately \$150,000 and is funded by the Bryan Foundation.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Marc Bush and seconded to recommend City Council approval for this project as presented. A vote in favor was unanimous.

ADDENDUM

- NONE -

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

- NONE -

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Jackson reported that UNCG, Stone facility, room 186 has been secured as the site for the CBM Teleconference on April 13, 2010. Guilford County and City of High Point has been notified of this location. The CBM Forum will be held August 12-14, 2010. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse will be held this upcoming weekend. Jackson requested Members to submit locations for the Commission tour scheduled for June.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Clay Hassard stated that he will attend an upcoming public budget meeting as his schedule will allow.

Ken Free stated that he was unable to attend a budget meeting. Free commended Jenny Caviness and GYC participants for their efforts and volunteer hours.

Wesley Vaughn commended GYC participants for their efforts and volunteer hours. Vaughn stated that he attended the budget meeting conducted by Councilperson Trudy Wade. During the meeting concerns were expressed about how much bond money will be released because of the budget situation. Vaughn stated that he had a good feeling with the 2000 bonds getting ready to expire. During the budget meeting Vaughn mentioned Hilltop Road and Gateway Gardens Phase II could use some attention. Council is aware of the expiring 2000 bonds.

Steve Moore stated that he will attend the March 18, 2010 budget meeting.

Lori Galbreath stated that she was unable to attend a public budget meeting.

Carl Brower, Jr. stated that he attended the District 2 public budget meeting and was very well attended. Brower commended GYC participants for their volunteer efforts. Brower recommended Members visit more Parks and Recreation facilities throughout the entire city.

Marc Bush stated that he will be attending the March 18, 2010 public budget meeting. Bush thanked Brower and Moore for their efforts serving on the Farmer's Market committee and thanked Galbreath and Moore for serving on the CIP subcommittee. Bush commended Tracy Pegram for efforts with Bur-Mil Park. Bush stated that Jackson and John Hughes participated in a tour of the coliseum to observe the preparation process of the ACC basketball tournament.

Rose Marie Ponton stated that she attended 2 public budget meetings and there was much support for the libraries. Ponton informed Members that they have been given a list of City Council Members. Ponton requested Members to sign up for the CBM Teleconference. Ponton invited everyone to attend the Barber Park Phase I Grand Opening on Sunday, March 28, 2010. Ponton stated that the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held at the Cultural Arts Center on April 14, 2010.

With no further business Ponton adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation



